

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5       An optical fiber axial alignment method and related method, and  
an optical fiber fusion splicing method and related device are  
disclosed wherein a butt alignment section 9 has a butt alignment  
groove portion 7 to allow at least one pair of optical fibers 3  
to be positioned such that distal ends of optical fibers 3 mutually  
but one another. Optical fiber guide sections 21 on both sides  
10       of the butt alignment section 9 have guide grooves 23, whose centers  
are positioned on substantially straight lines interconnecting  
centers of at least one pair of opposing butt alignment groove  
portions formed on the butt alignment section 9, and are able to  
elevate above the butt alignment section 9. When fusion splicing  
15       at least one pair of the optical fibers 3, the optical fiber guide  
sections 21 are elevated above the butt alignment groove portions  
7 to allow the optical guides 3 to be received in the guide grooves  
23 whereupon the optical guide sections 21 are lowered to cause  
the distal ends of the optical fibers 3 to be automatically received  
20       in the butt alignment groove portions 7.